Mutton processing based on Hybridization technique

547. SHRI VALAMPURI JOHN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scheme of Free Trade Zone project for mutton processing industry using for the first time Hybridization technique is pending clearance by the Animal Husbandry Department for the last one year; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) No scheme of Free Trade Zone project for mutton processing using for the first time Hybridization technique has been received in this Ministry.

(b) The question does not arise.

Delay in irrigation projects

548. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether 108 major irrigation projects have spilled over into the Seventh Five Year Plan and their original estimated cost of about Rs. 3481 crores has escalated to about Rs. 16372 crores;

(b) if so, how much burden of the accumulated interest and of loss of production in terms of rupees, the delay has cost on the nation's economy; and

(c) whether Government have taken any measures to cut the losses?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Since the original scheduled dates of completion and the financial outlays indicated in the project reports have undergone revision from time to time, it is difficult to indicate the accumulated interest and the loss of agricultural production.

(c) The State Governments have been advised to allocate adequate funds for completion of on going projects.

Grants received by the Central Wakf Council

549. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the grants-in-aid and other contributions in any form received by the Central Wakf Council till date from the Central Government; and

(b) what is the position with regard to the audit of accounts of the Council and whether Government have been receiving the audited accounts in time?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRDHAR GOMANGO): (a) The Central Wakf Council set up under Section 8A of the Wakf Act, 1954 in December 1964, received a grant-in-aid of Rs. 50 lakhs in 1965 from the Central Government for meeting its initial administrative expenditure.

During the period 1975-76 to 1980-81 the Council received a grant of Rs. 64,122.54 from the Central Government for the specific purpose of meeting the difference between the market rent and the rent under FR 45A in respect of the residential accommodation of the Secretary of the Council.

From the year 1974-75 the Council has received each year grant-in-aid from the Central Government for the specific purpose of advancing loans to Wakf Boards/Wakf Institutions for the capital work of development of urban wakf properties so as to aug-

ment their financial resources. The total grant-in-aid received in this behalf by the Central Wakf Council from the Central Government upto 31-3-86 is Rs. 413.64 lakhs.

(b) The audit of accounts of the Central Wakf Council is up-to-date. The Central Government have been receiving the audited accounts of the Council in time which are tabled in Parliament.

Price of steel

550. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of steel was raised as the public sector steel plants were losing during the last three years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the biggest beneficiary of this price rise has been the Tata Iron and Steel Company Limited (TISCO); and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Steel prices are announced by the Joint Plan Committee taking into account, *inter alia*, the cost of production, statutory levies and duties, JPC cess and the requirements of funds for freight equalisation funds, Engineering Goods Exports Assistance Fund and Steel Development Fund.

(c) Does not arise.

Loans to farmers

551. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount sanctioned to each State by the Central Government for distribution as loans to farmers for the Kharif programme in the country in the current financial year;

(b) whether the money has been properly distributed by each State;

(c) whether any irregularities have been noticed by the Central Government or by any State Government in the matter of distribution of loans; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) The Central Government have sanctioned short-term loans to the various States for meeting the need for distribution of agricultural inputs and/or for very special programmes like the advance purchase of seeds, comprehensive plant protection measures on compact area basis for important crops etc. No amount out of this loan is meant for making any cash payment to the farmers. The details of short-term loans sanctioned to the various States for Kharif 1986 are given in the annexure. Statement (*See* below)

(b) The loan amount is not meant for making any cash payment to the farmers.

(c) and (d) No irregularities have come to the notice of the Central Government.